

SENATE RESOLUTION 4

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor Ben W. Hooper Vocational School on providing 30 years of outstanding agriculture education to the children of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding schools that, through the dedicated efforts of their students, teachers, and administrators, bring honor to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ben W. Hooper Vocational School in Cocke County is one such estimable institution that has distinguished itself for over 30 years through excellent teaching, quality learning experiences, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, opened in 1976, Ben W. Hooper Vocational School has established itself as an elite agriculture education facility, tracing its commitment to academic excellence back to the two original teachers, the late Everett Freshour and the late Bill Hartsell, who were veteran agriculture educators; and

WHEREAS, today, under the leadership of Principal Larry Williams, Ben W. Hooper Vocational School offers students innovative agriculture education programs under the expert tutelage of three full-time teachers, Don Chandler, Mike Howerton, and Michael Southerland; and

WHEREAS, among the courses offered by the school are Equine Science, Wildlife Management, Agriculture Mechanics, Landscape Management, Aquaculture, Forestry, and Small Animal Care; and

WHEREAS, in addition to participation in the Envirothon, students enjoy an extensive greenhouse operation, field trips to Kentucky Horse Park, hunting safety classes, and a top caliber Future Farmers of America program; and

WHEREAS, the staff and faculty of Ben W. Hooper Vocational School are strongly supported in their efforts by Cocke County Director of Schools Larry Blazer and school system Vocational Director Donnie Frazier; and

WHEREAS, over the years Ben W. Hooper Vocational School has benefited from the tireless work and many contributions of former teachers, such as Eric Ellison and John Baskette, and especially retired former principal Mike Kilpatrick; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to seize this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding schools; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend the teachers, staff, and administrators of Ben W. Hooper Vocational School, both past and present, on 30 years of outstanding service to the children of Tennessee as exhibited by their commitment to academic excellence, innovative education experiences, and community involvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.